

Whereas, the results are based on graduation rates and on student feedback as collected in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE); and

Whereas, Zane State College has used student feedback in a successful effort to satisfy students' needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Zane State College for its outstanding service to students, families, and the Zanesville community. Congratulations to Zane State College on its ranking as number nine among two-year colleges in the U.S.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FRESHOUR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, a hero is someone that accomplishes great things for others without seeking glory for themselves. Heroes don't identify themselves with this title and try to shrug off accolades by living a life of strong character and silent modesty. We pass by many heroes throughout our lives and don't even realize it because they hide their true identities behind humble titles such as dad and grandpa.

Sgt. David F. Freshour is a hero from the Second Congressional District of Texas. He recently passed away on Monday, February 18, 2008. He was a World War II veteran and a member of the 15th Air Force, 451st Bomb Group Heavy, 725th Squadron stationed in Italy.

Sgt. Freshour's once described to me some of his fondest memories of military service. He repaired and maintained heavy bombers, specifically the B-24 "flying boxcars." His overseas tour of duty began when his squadron was shipped over to Europe in the hold of a Liberty Ship. After 25 days in a convoy, they disembarked in Naples, Italy. During this time, the U.S. Infantry was still fighting the Germans on the west side of Italy just north of Naples.

According to Sgt. Freshour, his convoy leader got confused and led the squadrons north instead of east. They soon realized their mistake when they began to hear the bombardment of ground troops. The convoy leader turned them around and led them over the mountains to the east.

When they arrived, the base was not ready. They were then taken to a temporary location that they used for two months until the runway was so badly damaged that they had to move to another base in the south. They finally got to their final location on a plateau that overlooked Foggia Airbase occupied by the British Air Force.

Their primitive base consisted of canvas tents, some of which were located in an olive grove. There was no way to heat the tents and their January arrival was in the middle of a cold Italian winter.

Five other soldiers shared a tent along with Sgt. Freshour and they all decided that this was to be their house for the duration of their military service unless "Axis Sally" fulfilled her promise to bomb them out of existence.

Instead of complaining about their circumstances, Sgt. Freshour and five other sol-

diers took it upon themselves to improve their rustic living conditions. They borrowed a truck and went to Foggia Airbase where they loaded it with stones from bombed out buildings and brought them back. A member of the group spoke some Italian and managed to hire local laborers to pour a concrete base for their house.

Another member of the group was a construction worker and he supervised the roof and window installation. The man was so much of a perfectionist during the construction process that one time Sgt. Freshour had to cut one-eighth of an inch off a six-inch wooden board.

Military men are known for being very resourceful and Freshour's group proved that by completing numerous projects with very limited resources. They built a stove which heated their new home using 1/3 of a 55-gallon steel barrel and with copper tubing from a gasoline drum.

Their efforts inspired a building boom in the area. Most of the ground crew, air crew and officers built houses instead of living in tents.

Their enthusiasm in building extended into a desire for a permanent mess hall. Thinking about entertainment opportunities in the future, Freshour, along with several other men, began building a mess hall with a large stage to be the main focus of attention for the diners. The smart men used trusses for roof support instead of posts so that the soldiers' view of the stage would not be blocked. The stage had a curtain made of aircraft cotton and canvas on each side with murals painted by a Canadian air crew member. The stage was often used as the site for USO shows.

A kitchen which included a steam table was also built inside the mess hall. The steam table didn't improve the food much, according to Freshour, but the mess sergeants tried. The finished mess hall was a proud display of American craftsmanship. During an inspection by Major General Nathan Twining, he said the mess hall was the finest in the 15th Air Force.

As a member of the air maintenance crew, one of Freshour's main jobs was replacing fuel cells damaged by anti-aircraft flack. The plates covering the cell had thousands of small screws and the only thing they had to use was a small hand drill to remove and replace them.

Sgt. Freshour was additionally assigned as crew chief of a radar ship that was used as a lead ship to drop bombs when targets were obscured by clouds. It was sometimes used for rare night missions.

There was also a guard group assigned to patrol the planes at night. One time, some of the guards got into a plane and played a prank on the crew by cutting out the parachute nylon and replaced them with rags. When the crew found these chutes, they were so furious that the officers were afraid a war would break out. The guards were removed that day.

Sgt. Freshour and his fellow soldiers became the replacement guards. They were issued ammo for their carbines and spent the night on patrol protecting the planes and keeping the other guards and flight crew from killing each other over the parachute prank.

Freshour recalled that the day Germany surrendered; the American troops put all of the planes on the base in the air for a great fly over. The end of the war in Europe was good news because it meant that they were on their way home. They returned on a fast troop ship that arrived in America in a little over six days as opposed to the usual 35-day convoy.

One day, while on the ship, Sgt. Freshour was emptying a trashcan overboard when he ran into his good friend from his neighborhood back home. He had been a radio man on a B-24. It was a rare chance encounter seeing a close friend thousands of miles from home.

After returning to the U.S., Freshour was not yet able to immediately leave the military because the war in Japan was raging. He was assigned to an air transport squadron in Presque Isle, Maine. The ground crew they replaced had been there all throughout the war, but since they had been stationed state-side, their everyday lives were completely different from Freshour and his squadron because they had cars, part-time jobs and their wives in the same location.

While stateside, Sgt. Freshour was Charge Quarter on night duty. He had the job of waking the air crews up and leading them to the planes that were going to the war in the Pacific. As soon as Japan surrendered, they were discharged and Sgt. Freshour reentered civilian life.

Sgt. Freshour married Doris and together they had four children: Karen, David, Sue and Denise.

As a U.S. Representative, one of the most honorable things I have the privilege of doing is recognizing American heroes of past wars such as Sgt. David F. Freshour, for their honorable actions. On August 5, 2006, I presented him with medals and citations that he had earned more than 60 years earlier for his service during World War II but had never received. I presented him with the Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and the World War II Victory Medal in a ceremony at First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood.

It was an honor to finally recognize an American hero. Our country owes a debt of gratitude towards those who fought and won World War II. We owe our lives and our liberty to "The Greatest Generation" of our time. The courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of the military forces of the Allied Powers who served valiantly to rescue the Pacific nations from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered.

Our Nation is safer, stronger and better because of the sacrifice of Sgt. David F. Freshour and the thousands of other World War II veterans. Though his light here on earth has extinguished, his sacrifice has made America's lantern of liberty burn brighter.

Thank you, Sgt. Freshour for being a loving father, a caring grandfather and a great American.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF CLYDE WALKER, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, Clyde Walker, Jr. served as the chief of the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department for more than 35 years. The fire department was his life, and his love of volunteering and serving others